

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



PORT SANITARY REPORT

1935



Port Sanitary Authority.

To the Chairman and Members of the Port Sanitary Authority.

MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my report on the work of the Port Sanitary Authority of Portsmouth during the year 1935.

The total number of foreign and coastwise ships entering the port each shows a slight increase as compared with the previous year.

No case of infectious disease was reported in the area during the year.

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular, 1931, a scheme was inaugurated towards the end of the year for catching and examining rats found on ships and on the quay side. None of the rats caught by the rat-catcher and submitted to the Bacteriologist at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital showed evidence of infection by plague either macroscopically or microscopically.

I desire to express my thanks to the King's Harbour Master and to H.M. Collector of Customs and staff for their cordial co-operation and valuable assistance during the year.

It is again my pleasure to record my appreciation of the excellent service readily and willingly given to me by the Port Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Portsmouth Port Sanitary Authority my thanks are due for their unfailing sympathy and support in all matters relating to port sanitation throughout the year.

Jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority.

The limits of the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority are as follows :—

“ So much of the Port of Portsmouth as lies to the east of a line drawn due south from the most southerly point of the pier of the L. & S.W. Railway Co. at Stokes Bay to a point 50° 45' N. Lat. ; to the west of a line drawn due south to the same parallel of latitude from the south-eastern extremity of the common boundary of the Parishes of Havant and Warblington ; and to the north of a line drawn due west along the same parallel of latitude from the point at which the line lastly hereinbefore mentioned meets the said parallel to the point secondly hereinbefore mentioned ;

Together with the waters of the said Port of Portsmouth within such limits, and the place which may from time to time be appointed for the Customs Boarding Station for such part of the said Port, and the place which may from time to time be appointed for the mooring and anchoring of ships for such part of the said Port, under any Regulations for the prevention of the spread of diseases issued under the Authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and the place which may from time to time be appointed, with Our Consent, for the mooring or anchoring of any floating hospital provided by the said Sanitary Authority ; and, for the purpose of any such Regulations as aforesaid, shall also extend to any ship which, in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder, shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or which shall be on its way thither, together with the docks, quays, wharves, rivers, creeks, streams, channels, roads, bays, and harbours within the aforesaid limits.”

I. Amount of Shipping entering the Port during the Year.

TABLE A.

—	Number	Tonnage	Number inspected		Number reported to be Defective	Number of vessels on which defects were remedied	Number of vessels reported as having, or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board
			By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector			
FOREIGN	Steamers	115	33,689	—	54	17	—
	*Motor	38	5,418	—	31	3	—
	Sailing	1	110	—	1	1	—
	Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Foreign	154	39,217	—	86	21	21	Nil
COASTWISE	Steamers	551	242,637	—	75	9	—
	*Motor	162	15,963	—	39	7	—
	Sailing	1	45	—	—	—	—
	Fishing	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Coastwise	704	258,645	—	114	16	16	Nil
Total Foreign and Coastwise	858	297,862	—	200	37	37	Nil

* Includes mechanically propelled vessels other than steamers.

II. Character of Trade of Port.

TABLE B.

There was no passenger traffic with foreign ports during the year.

Cargo Traffic. The principal imports were timber, cement, coal, stone and slates, chiefly from Frederikstad, Abo, Oslo, Antwerp, Calais, St. Malo, Roscoff, Jersey, Dunkirk, Archangel, Lovisa, Transung, Nearsnes, Guernsey, Wasa and Viborg.

III. Sources of Water Supply.

The water used in the docks is supplied by the Portsmouth Water Company. Vessels in dock are supplied from hydrants from the same source. There are two water boats in use, which are periodically inspected and maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.

IV. Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

Declarations of Health, which must be filled in and signed by the Master of every ship arriving from a foreign port are obtained—

- (a) in respect of vessels from non-infected ports, by the Customs Officer, who forwards them to the Port Medical Officer.
- (b) in respect of vessels from infected ports by the Port Medical Officer. Vessels are visited in dock by the Port Sanitary Inspector as soon as possible after docking.

2. Telegraphic Address.

To avoid delay in notifying inward vessels requiring special attention, the telegraphic address "Portelth," suggested by the Ministry of Health, has been adopted by the Port Sanitary Authority.

3. Mooring Stations.

Under Article 10 of the Port Sanitary Regulations, 1933, the following mooring stations have been established, with the concurrence of the King's Harbour Master and the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, viz.—

(a) OUTER MOORING STATION.

An area about half a mile north-west of Mother of Bank Spit.

(b) INNER MOORING STATION.

The upper reaches of Portsmouth Harbour.

This agreement is subject to the following understandings :—

(1) That the mooring place referred to at (a) above is for ships with cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever or smallpox on board, and that at (b) for all other unhealthy ships not within a standing exemption.

(2) That a standing exemption from detention under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority in respect of any ship which—

- (i) has called at a Port or seaboard included in the weekly return of infected or suspected ports or seaboards, but reports "all well" during the voyage or arrives with no sickness on board, unless a

written notice to the contrary has been delivered to the Customs Officer by or on behalf of the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority.

- (ii) has on board a case of minor infectious disorder, namely, chickenpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, erysipelas, malaria, dysentery, pneumonia, tuberculosis, mumps or cerebro-spinal fever.

(3) That when necessary the Port Sanitary Authority will convey the Customs Officers to the mooring place referred to as (a) above, free of expense to the Crown.

4. Arrangements for dealing with cases of Infectious Diseases, etc.

Cases of dangerous infectious disease are removed to the smallpox hospital at Elson.

All other cases of infectious disease are removed to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital by means of the Corporation Motor Ambulance Service.

Contacts of Infectious Diseases Cases.

- (a) LIVING IN THE CITY. If not removed to hospital they are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.
- (b) PROCEEDING TO AN ADDRESS OUTSIDE THE CITY. The Medical Officer of Health of the place of destination is advised.

A consulting room and waiting room are available at the docks for medical examination.

Personnel and clothing are disinfected at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Provision can be made for the temporary accommodation of persons who may have to be detained pending further examination.

Bacteriological and pathological examination of rats is carried out by the Pathologist of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital.

Arrangements are made at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, the Royal Portsmouth Hospital, for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases among sailors.

TABLE C.

No cases of Infectious Disease was landed from Vessels.

TABLE D.

There were no cases of infectious disease occurring upon the voyage but disposed of prior to the vessel's arrival.

V. Measures against Rodents.

All vessels arriving from abroad are examined periodically by the Port Sanitary Inspector and specimen rats are taken for examination for rat plague. Twelve rats were caught by the official rat-catcher and submitted for examination to the Bacteriologist at the Royal Portsmouth Hospital with negative results.

When necessary, rat guards are placed on ropes between the ships and the quays. A trained rat-catcher is employed periodically.

TABLES E. and F.

Twelve rats were destroyed during the year on vessels or in the docks.

VI. Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.

TABLE J.
CLASSIFICATION OF NUISANCES.

Nationality of Vessel	No. inspected during the Year	Defects of original construction	Structural defects through wear and tear	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health
British	114	Nil	Nil	114
Other Nations	86	Nil	1	85

VII. Food Inspections.

The importations of food-stuffs are small in amount, these being chiefly potatoes from the Channel Islands, Scotland and Ireland, and flour, sugar and tinned foods from Liverpool, London, etc. During the year no adverse reports were made by the Meat Inspector.

The number of livestock landed at the docks from the Isle of Wight was 10,423. During the inspections of livestock no clinical evidence of the existence of any of the contagious and notifiable animal diseases was found.

I have the honour to be,

Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. B. WILLIAMSON,

Port Medical Officer of Health.

